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Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR
1953

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Urban District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health 1953

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (full time) :

THOMAS H. FARRELL, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,

D.P.H.H. (Hons).

Additional Sanitary Inspector (full time) :

R. E. MOORE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Council :

S. E. WILKINSON

Chairman of Council :

G. E. A. RIDGWAY, J.P.

Highways Committee Chairman :

J. J. STALEY

Housing Committee Chairman :

W. J. C. BOWKER

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1953.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population has increased from 6,449 in 1952 to 6,515 in 1953.

It will be noted that the birth and death rates are adjusted for comparison with England and Wales.

The birth rate (16.7) is slightly higher than last year and that for England and Wales (15.5).

The death rate (11.5) is somewhat higher than last year (10.2) and almost the same as that for England and Wales (11.4).

The chief causes of death are from diseases associated with elderly people.

The water supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality, and the Derwent Valley Scheme was completed during the year.

The scheme for the sewerage of New Packington is still waiting for the consent of the Ministry.

25 Houses were completed during the year, making a total of 269 houses completed in the Post-War period, 266 of these by the local authority.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 284, and the number of applications received during the year was 46.

With respect to general house conditions the position is rapidly deteriorating, due to the large proportion of old property in the area.

176 cases of Infectious Diseases occurred during the year. This included 158 cases of Measles, 2 cases of Food Poisoning, and one of Poliomyelitis (Paralytic). Most of the Measles cases were notified during the month of July. This is the first time cases of Food Poisoning have been notified, and both cases were very mild. The case of Poliomyelitis was mild.

Again I must comment on the low number of children receiving immunisation against Diphtheria, particularly primary Immunisation. There must be a dangerously high percentage of the child population at present susceptible to diphtheria.

I am pleased to say the number on the Tuberculosis Register has fallen, only 2 cases having been added during the year.

I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department of the County Council for their help and co-operation.

Finally, I must thank Mr. T. H. Farrell, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. R. E. Moore, additional Sanitary Inspector for their invaluable help during the year, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	6,190 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ..	6,515
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,013
Rateable Value (at 31/12/53)	£38,772
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£152 0s. 0d.
Comparability factor—Births	1.07
Deaths	0.99

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are :—Agriculture, Biscuit making, Soap Manufacturing and Glove Manufacturing. A number of workers engaged in Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking are residents in the town. There are also two Public Parks and an Open-air Swimming Bath in the Town. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS :				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	60	41	101
Illegitimate	..	..	..	0	2	2
				—	—	—
Total	..	..	..	60	43	103
				==	==	==

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 15.6

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 16.7

England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 15.5

STILL BIRTHS :				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	0	0	0
				—	—	—
Total	..	..	..	3	1	4
				==	==	==

Crude Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 0.61

Adjusted Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 0.65

England and Wales Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 0.35

DEATHS :				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
				42	33	75

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population : 11.5

Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population : 11.4

England and Wales Death Rate per 1,000 population : 11.4

Causes of Death in 1953

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	3	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	4	2	6
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1
Other heart disease	9	9	18
Other circulatory disease	1	4	5
Influenza	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
Congenital malformations	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	5	9
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	1	0	1
	—	—	—
	40	33	73
	==	==	==

Death Rate from Total Maternal Causes per 1,000 Live and Still Births—0. (England and Wales 0.76).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	0	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Total	3	0	3
	==	==	==

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—29.3 per 1,000 Live Births.
(England and Wales)—26.8 per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	0	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
					—	—	—
					3	0	3
					==	==	==

Chief Causes of Death in 1953 :—

Diseases of Heart and Circulation	..	37
Malignant Neoplasm (all forms)	.. ..	8

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

HOSPITALS

All hospitals are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of a few private Maternity and Nursing Homes. The County Homes for aged and infirm people are under the County Council. When they become ill they are the responsibility of the Hospital Board.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby. An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, and the Tuberculosis Clinic at Markfield Sanatorium. The Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The County Council is responsible for all ambulance facilities in the County. Colliery accidents are removed by Ambulances provided by the National Coal Board stationed at Nailstone Colliery and Moira Colliery.

NURSING IN THE HOME

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the home is under the County Council. A Diabetic Health Visitor attends the Clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, and visits the patients in their homes.

HEALTH VISITING

This work is provided, as before, by the County Council, and is ably carried out in the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES
The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital,
Groby Road, Leicester

The examinations performed on behalf of the District in the County Laboratory are as follows:—

Throat and Nose Swabs	..	..	4
Faeces and Urine	..	..	2
Blood	..	..	3
Sputa	..	..	15
Water	..	..	2
Ice-cream	..	..	8
Whooping Cough Swabs	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	3
			—
Total	..	..	41
			==

Generally there is co-operation between the local authority and the services provided by the Executive Council and the Hospital Board, and the tendency is towards closer integration.

SECTION C
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The water is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board and is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Particulars of Water Supply to Dwelling Houses in the District—
Internal Mains Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 1,938. Estimated Population, 6,215.

Mains Water from External Standpipes—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 63. Estimated Population, 252.

Well Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 12. Estimated Population, 48.

Apart from a few isolated dwellings, the whole of the urban area is supplied with water from the public mains.

Number of cases in which Pipe supply was substituted for Well Water—6.

No wells were closed or cleansed, and no samples of well water taken for analysis.

Post-War Proposals.—Completion of Derwent Valley Scheme.

Sewage Disposal.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—17.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st December, 1953—
48 (estimated).

No extension of sewers, new works or improvements during the year. Apart from New Packington, the whole district is well sewered.

The scheme for the sewerage of New Packington 28 houses—
awaits the consent of the Ministry.

Closet Accommodation

Total number in District on 31st December, 1953 (Estimated) —

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	33
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	27
(c)	Water closets	..	..	..	..	1,909

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during
the year :—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	2
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	2

No grant is made towards the cost of conversion.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the
year : 1.

Earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools are cleansed by
Council workmen, and disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

Pail closets are emptied weekly, and contents disposed of in the
same way.

Public Cleansing

Domestic refuse is removed weekly by direct labour over the whole
area by two Karrier Bantam lorries, and the contents disposed of to
two controlled tips.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a)	Total number of complaints received	..	..	498
(b)	Total number of premises at which defects or nuisances were dealt with	..	..	372
(c)	Total number of defects or nuisances dealt with			586

Particulars of Inspections Made

					<i>Number of Inspections</i>
Animal Keeping .. .. .	..	..	..	..	17
Bakehouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	14
Dairies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	28
Drainage Works .. .. .	..	..	..	..	36
Dwelling-houses (all purposes) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	310
Food Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	35
Offensive Trades .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4
Refuse Collection and Disposal .. .. .	..	..	..	..	300
Rodent Control .. .. .	..	..	..	..	230
Schools .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7
Shops .. .. .	..	..	..	..	37
Slaughter-houses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7
Smoke Observations .. .. .	..	..	..	..	23
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	0
Verminous and Dirty Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4
Water Supplies .. .. .	..	..	..	..	24
Workshops, outworkers, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	109
Other Inspections .. .. .	..	..	..	..	68
Total					<hr/> 1253 <hr/>

Notices

Preliminary Notices

			<i>Housing</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1953 .. .. .	..	..	15	5
Issued during year .. .. .	..	..	39	163
Complied with during year .. .. .	..	..	28	152
Statutory action necessary .. .. .	..	..	0	0
Outstanding 31st December, 1953 .. .. .	..	..	26	16

Statutory Notices

Statutory Notices, Nil.

Summary action, Nil.

Shops

Particulars of action taken during the year under the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950.

	<i>Outstanding 1st Jan., 1953</i>	<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding 31st Dec., 1953</i>
Sanitary				
Conveniences	0	0	0	0
Temperature	0	3	3	0
Ventilation	0	5	5	0
Washing Facilities	0	10	10	0
Lighting	0	4	4	0
Facilities for taking Meals	0	0	0	0

Regulated Buildings

<i>Class of Building</i>	<i>No. in District</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>General Conditions</i>
Offensive Trades	1	4	0	satisfactory

Eradication of Bed Bugs

One house, not a council house, found infested, and disinfected with D.D.T. by means of zaldezide spray and fumigator, carried out by local authority.

To ensure that tenants' belongings are vermin free before removal to a Council house, pre-removal inspection is carried out by the Housing Manager.

Periodic inspection undertaken for the supervision of education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

The Pet Animal Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Rag Flock and other Filling Material Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Inspection of district, including baiting of public sewers. Treatment of infested premises. One part-time Rodent Operator.

Schools

No action taken.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public

No. in Area :—

(a) Publicly owned	..	..	..	..	1
(b) Privately owned	..	..	..	..	1
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	..	16

SECTION D

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered :—

(a) Manufacture and retail	..	..	..	0
(b) Manufacture only	..	..	..	0
(c) Retail only	..	..	..	15
Number of Samples taken	..	..	..	8

Results of Samples :—

	Grade 1—8	Grade 2—0	
	Grade 3—0	Grade 4—0	
Number of Samples of “ Lollies ” taken	..	..	4
Results satisfactory	..	..	4

Milk Supply

Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) and Distributors (Section 8 Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949) :—

Number on Register—Dairies	..	..	..	4
Distributors	..	..	..	11
Number of Inspections made	..	..	..	19
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	..	..	..	0
Number of contraventions found during year	..	..	..	0
Number of contraventions remedied during year	..	..	..	0
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1953	..	..	..	0

Bacteriological Milk Samples :

None taken by Urban District Council.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued :—

Dealers Licences—Pasteurised	..	..	1
Sterilised	..	..	0
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised	..	..	1
Sterilised	..	..	0

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued :—

Dealers' Licences	..	..	1
Supplementary Licences	..	..	2

Meat and Other Foods

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in Area	..	..	Nil
No. of Animals slaughtered elsewhere	..	..	Nil
No. of Animals examined elsewhere	..	None	known
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	..	..	Nil
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	..	..	1
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	..	..	3

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number inspected	Nil
Number condemned	Nil

Meat Stalls

Number of Inspections	Nil
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Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Number of Inspections	46
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Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale

Number of Inspections	54
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SECTION E

Housing

Houses completed during the year.

	<i>Prefab.</i>			<i>Aver. Rent</i>
	<i>Per-</i>	<i>Per-</i>	<i>Aver. Cost</i>	<i>inclusive or</i>
	<i>manent</i>	<i>manent</i>	<i>per House</i>	<i>exclusive of</i>
	<i>Type</i>	<i>Type</i>		<i>Rates</i>
Local Authority	10	2	£1,650	30/- inclusive
By Private Enterprise	Nil	13	£2,000	All Owner occupier

Houses in course of erection at end of year :

By Local Authority	Nil	32	Nil	Nil
By Private Enterprise	Nil	12	Nil	Nil

Total number of Post-War Houses completed

By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	226
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	43

Applications for Council Houses

Total number at end of year	284
Applications received during the year	46

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	109
Number of inspections made for the purpose	171
Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	109

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	67
---	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

No action taken.

Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding :

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	22
Number of families dwelling therein	6
Number of persons dwelling therein	20
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	8
Number of persons concerned in such cases	18
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..known	1

The position with respect to general house conditions is rapidly deteriorating due to large proportion of old property in the district.

Housing Summary.

Total number of houses occupied in District	..	..	2,013
Total number of Council Houses occupied in District	..		400

Housing Act, 1949

Number of Applications for reconditioning grants	..		2
--	----	--	---

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Final numbers after correction</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Measles	158	0	0
Pneumonia	3	0	0
Whooping Cough	9	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Food Poisoning	2	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	0
	—	—	—
	176	1	0
	==	==	==

Analysis Under Age Groups according to Registrar General's Return 118d

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Meningococcal Infection</i>
Under 1 year ..	0	1	4	0
1—2 ..	0	2	31	1
3—4 ..	0	2	33	0
5—9 ..	1	4	84	0
10—14 ..	0	0	2	0
15—24 ..	0	0	3	0
25 and over ..	0	0	1	0
	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1	9	158	1
	==	==	==	==

<i>Age Period</i>		<i>Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>	<i>Food Poisoning</i>
Under 5 years	..	0	0	0	0
5—14	..	1	0	0	0
15—44	..	0	1	1	2
45—64	..	0	1	0	0
65 and over	..	0	1	0	0
Age unknown	..	0	0	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	..	1	3	1	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The two cases of Food Poisoning were very mild, and no organisms were isolated on investigation, nor was it possible to trace the source of infection.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of Children who were immunised during the period
1st January—31st December, 1953

<i>Age at 31/12/53 i.e. born in year</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Total</i>
	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	
Primary Immunisation	7	24	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	41
Booster Dose	—	—	—	—	1	16	7	—	1	1	26

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Tuberculosis Register for the year 1953

		<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			<i>Total</i>
		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
No. of cases on the Register at the com- mencement of year	..	15	6	21	4	4	8	29
No. of cases notified during the year	..	1	0	1	0	1	1	2
Number of cases restored to the Register	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	<i>Pulmonary</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
No. of cases added other than by formal notification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of cases removed from Register during the year	4	2	6	1	1	2	8
No. of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	12	4	16	3	4	7	23

Causes of Removal

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Died	2	0	0	0	2
Left District	1	2	0	1	4
Cured	1	0	1	0	2
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	2	1	1	8
	==	==	==	==	==

There is free co-operation between the Local Authority and the Chest Physician, and every assistance is given in the ascertainment of contacts, rehousing and employment. A special clinic for contacts has been working very satisfactorily, and general practitioners have availed themselves fully of X-ray facilities.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Resumé of Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1953, previously sent to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

Part I of the Act

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	1
Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	43	6
	—	—	—
Total	37	48	7
	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more Cases).

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) not separate for sexes	1	0
(b) Unsuited or defective	4	3
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outworkers)	7	7
	—	—
	12	10
	==	==

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110</i>
Lace Curtains and Nets	2

